3: Low G-5 (1844-1847) 1848
OC6 Iban OC6

known of the products, gold is not one of them, nor have I seen specimens of any other metals which have been extracted from their soil. Small paths intersect the forests between the villages of all the Sakarran and Sarebas tribes, so that a constant communication is easily kept up, and as their practices and interests are identical, the good understanding which has long existed between these powerful tribes of savages is likely to be maintained, as they probably very well know that a quarrel between them would only end in the ruin of both, their enemies being so numerous, and anxious to revenge upon them the many injuries they have sustained at their hands.

Though the Dyaks generally build their villages near the river for the convenience of launching their boats, there are many of them situated so high towards the sources of the streams as to be unnavigable from the rapids; the people inhabiting such join the boats belonging to some village situated lower down, and are thus enabled to participate in their piratical practices. The villages of the sea Dyaks are formed upon one plan, the houses being, if the tribe be small—that is to say, of about sixty families—all collected under one roof. Each house has its separate door, which opens into a broad verandah covered in by a continuation of the pitch of the roof, and which answers all the purposes of a street, being floored with laths of bamboo or nibong, and on a level with the flooring of the houses. One terrace of such buildings is often 500 or 600 feet

132 where wet-rice is cultivated are not so affected by unseasonable rains,
133 for with the introduction and use of herbicides, they can easily clear
243 and burn their farms in the dry weather available. But these farmers are more vulnerable and have suffered losses due to flooding at different times of the horticultural year. In 1970, some farms were flooded in the Pasai Bon area when the rice was coming to fruit, others when the rice was ripe and the panicles so heavy that they fell over into the water and rotted. At the time of this writing, the District's lowlands have been inundated with from one to three feet of fetid water in an unseasonable August flood, just at the end of the Ibans' clearing their farms and before they could transplant. Those who made their seed-beds (chemi') in low-lying areas lost the young shoots (anak padi) under the water. As Ganai, Apai Gaun from Rumah Nyala, Sungai Aup, complained, "This is the third (consecutive) year our farms have failed on account of rain" (Tu'meh ketiga taun umai kami enda' nyadi setegal ujan).

3. Minerals

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[135] The Sibu District is marked by a singular absence of valuable minerals, and mining industries play a relatively small part in the whole of the Sarawak economy. With the exception of oil, mining has been concentrated entirely in Sarawak west of the Batang Lupar, and there seems little likelihood of any significant discoveries being made